istered by a small committee, on which Professor Rein will serve during his lifetime.

Nature states that the council of the Royal Sanitary Institute offers the Henry Saxon Snell prize for competition this year. The prize was founded to encourage improvements in the construction or adaptation of sanitary appliances, and is to be awarded by the council at intervals of three years, the funds being provided by the legacy left by the late Henry Saxon Snell. The prize will consist of fifty guineas and the silver medal of the institute, and is offered for an essay on "Suggestions for Improvements in the Ventilating, Lighting, Heating and Water Supply Appliances and Fittings for an Operating Room and its Accessory Rooms for a General Hospital of 400 Beds."

THE conference of representatives of forty-two states which was convened last November under the auspices of the International Office of Public Hygiene, and which has been sitting in Paris under the presidency of M. Camille Barrère, the French ambassador in Rome, has now signed a convention making regulations for the prevention of pestilential diseases, especially plague, cholera and yellow fever. This agreement supplements the earlier Paris convention of 1903 in accordance with the latest scientific requirements.

THE annual meeting of the Illinois Society of Engineers and Surveyors for 1912 was held at the University of Illinois on January 17, 18 and 19. The more important engineering topics discussed were stream pollution, sewage disposal, accuracy in surveying, road and pavement problems and the bridge work of the Illinois highway commission. Two illustrated lectures were given, one by Professor I. O. Baker on the Panama Canal, and one by Mr. H. L. Cooper, chief engineer, on the Keokuk Water Power Plant. An afternoon was spent in inspecting the buildings and discussing the work of the College of Engineering.

THE Physical Science Club of Oberlin College is an organization composed of instructors and students in the departments of chemistry and physics, with affiliated members drawn from the departments of botany and zoology and mathematics. The most recent open meeting of the club was devoted to a lecture by Professor A. W. Menzies, of the University of Chicago, who spoke on "The Uses of Quartz in Physical and Chemical Apparatus." Recent regular meetings of the club have been devoted to talks and illustrated lectures by E. J. Moore, associate professor of physics, who has been for two years working in the laboratories of the University of Chicago under Professor Millikan. Dr. S. R. Williams, head of the department of physics, has read a series of papers on "A Model of the Elementary Magnet," while Professor G. D. Hubbard, head of the department of geology, has brought to the meetings the results of his work under the State Geological Survey, on the investigation of preglacial conditions and present topography in the Ohio Valley.

IN connection with the Centenary Celebration of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the following invitation has been mailed to correspondents.

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, founded in the year eighteen hundred and twelve for the cultivation of the natural sciences, in March nineteen hundred and twelve will have completed one hundred years of active devotion to this purpose.

For the adequate celebration of its centenary anniversary the Academy will call in convention at its Hall the learned men and institutions of the world—its collaborators.

The Academy has the honor to invite . . . . . to be present at this event which will take place at Philadelphia on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first of March nineteen hundred and twelve.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE council of Bedford College has announced that the £100,000 required to erect the new buildings at Regent's Park and to inaugurate an endowment fund has now been obtained. Of this amount the London County Council has contributed £30,000.

PROFESSOR HENRY WILLIAMSON HAYNES has bequeathed to the Peabody Museum of Har-

vard University $1,000 for the library and all his prehistoric and archeological objects, and his books and pamphlets relating to such subjects. To the Boston Society of Natural History is given his fossils, minerals and other objects of natural history. To Harvard College is given, for its classical department, Mr. Haynes's Etruscan, Greek and Roman vases and his ancient coins and medals. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts is to receive his Egyptian antiquities, except those relating to the age of stone in Egypt, which go to the Peabody Museum.

THE dedication of the New York State Education Building will take place on October 15–17. It is expected that educational officers of other states will attend the exercises and that the leading institutions—including libraries and museums as well as universities, colleges and schools—of this and other countries will be represented by delegates.

THE entrance requirement to the College of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati will be advanced to include two premedical years in science, after June 1, 1913.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that at the University of Pittsburgh instruction in geology, paleontology and physiography will hereafter be given under the direction of the college instead of the School of Mines faculty, courses being offered in the department of geology by the following-named professors and instructors: Drs. C. R. Eastman (chairman), A. E. Ortmann, O. E. Jennings and Messrs. H. N. Eaton and Earl Douglass.

PROFESSOR H. R. SMITH, in charge of the animal husbandry work in the University of Nebraska, and Professor F. H. Stoneburn, professor of poultry husbandry in the Connecticut Agricultural College, have been called to the University of Minnesota.

MR. C. W. HOWARD, of Cornell, known in connection with grasshopper work in South Africa and at present with the Rockefeller Institute, has been appointed to an instructorship in the division of entomology, University of Minnesota. Mr. O. G. Babcock, of College Park, Maryland, has been appointed as assistant to the entomological division in charge of the insectary. These two appointees take the places of Mr. C. S. Spooner and Mr. H. B. Scammell, respectively. The former goes to Georgia, accepting an offer from the state entomologist there, and the latter has been elected county inspector of nurseries and orchards in Colorado.

DR. B. W. VAN RIPER, of Nebraska Wesleyan University, has been elected assistant professor of philosophy in Boston University.

AT Smith College Elizabeth Kemper Adams has been promoted from associate professor of philosophy and education to professor of education; Aida Agnes Heine, from instructor to associate professor of geology, and Helen Ashurst Choate, from assistant to instructor in botany.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE PRIBILOF FUR SEAL HERD

IN SCIENCE of February 2, 1912, Mr. McLean, of the Campfire Club's Committee on Game Protection, says, among other things about the diminishing fur seal herd, that "the best remedy is to let it absolutely alone."

Nature's methods are wasteful,

> So careful of the type she seems,
> So careless of the single life.

Civilized countries practise artificial fertilization of fish eggs, and rearing of the fry in hatcheries, because a greater proportion of eggs can be fertilized, and vastly more young brought to maturity, than by nature's methods. The domestication and control of useful animals is universally practised for similar reasons.

That the fur seal tribe would slowly increase if "let absolutely alone" may be true. So would most other beings we are at such pains to cultivate. Pelagic sealing is responsible for the present abnormal condition of the seal herd. The state department's bill for the ratification of the treaty for the suppression of such sealing, *gives the female seals the first chance they have had for twenty-five years.* The fact that we have forty thousand breeding females on the